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30 JUL 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, USAF

SUBJECT: Satellite Imagery Resolution Study (SIRS)

REFERENCE: Memorandum to DCI from Gen. Keegan, Subj: Draft  
Executive Summary to the Satellite Resolution Study,  
20 June 1975, [redacted] 11 July 1975

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1. I appreciate the concern that was reflected in your memorandum. I understand that the published Executive Summary and the final drafts of the study have been made available to the Air Force through its member on the Working Group. I note that your major concerns were also emphasized in the Executive Summary. In this report the Steering Group included a specific recommendation that a larger flow of high resolution imagery is required and that no option that would provide a lesser quantity than now available should be selected. The report concludes that there is an interaction problem between different intelligence requirements and also stresses the need to evaluate [redacted] performance after it is in orbit. These concerns will be given due consideration in the ExCom decisions relating to our overhead imagery program.

2. I realize there were significant contributions from many elements of the community including the Air Force. It was my intention for this study to include all major community participants; that is, the collectors, the processors, and the analytical and user communities. It was necessary to have this wide participation in order that the best judgments on the value of high resolution imagery would be available to the ExCom.

3. Please express my personal appreciation to the Air Force representatives who worked so diligently in the production of this study.

/s/ Bill

W. E. COLBY  
Director  
Central Intelligence

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Memorandum from General Keegan, Air Force Assistant  
Chief of Staff, Intelligence, dated 11 June 1975

1. General Keegan's memorandum is in reference to an early draft (20 June 1975) of the Executive Summary of the High Resolution Imagery Study. All but one of the concerns he discussed are issues that were pointed out in that draft and the interaction problem was included in the final Executive Summary. General Keegan and/or his staff also had available the 26 June draft and on 10 July, the final Executive Summary.

2. The Air Force representative of the Working Group, a member of General Keegan's staff, participated in each phase of the study. The Air Force did not have a representative on the Steering Group which was responsible for final approval of the Executive Summary and for the overall study. Since the referenced memorandum was signed, the Working Group has been completing coordination of the study. The Air Force member has concurred in it. The final Study Report should be disseminated on 22 July 1975. Volumes II, III and IV will be disseminated shortly thereafter.

3. Although the Air Force has not footnoted any portion of the study, it is evident that one conclusion is required to make General Keegan happy; that would be for the SIRS to have concluded that the [ ] system is essential for the indefinite future. Instead the SIRS concluded that it was essential to maintain at least the current rate of flow of high resolution imagery without uniquely specifying the collection system.

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4. The Air Force, along with many other organizations have worked diligently to produce this study. In the attached proposed response to General Keegan's memo the Air Force participation has been recognized.

ERNEST J. ZELLMER  
Chairman

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Attachment: as stated

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